

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the claims as set forth herein to place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for purposes of appeal. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendment. Applicants believe the present amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search by the Examiner.

In the Claims

Applicants respectfully request that claims 1, 7, 9 and 33 be amended and claims 3-6, 8, 10-14, 17-32 and 34 be canceled. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendment.

Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 15, 16 and 33 are pending in the subject application. It is respectfully requested that the pending claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 15, 16 and 33 be reconsidered and passed to issuance in view of this response.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-7, 15, 16 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,197,181), and further in view of Phillippe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,221,832); and, rejected claims 1-6, 9-10, 12-13, 15-16 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunaga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,280), and further in view of Phillippe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,221,832).

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 33 to recite specific solutions as taught by the present invention. As the Examiner expressly states, Chen and Matsunaga et al. “...

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fail to teach a second solution ...". Phillippe et al. teach adding substances such as lactic acid and tartaric acid. Phillippe et al. do not teach or suggest adding any of the specific substances that are recited in claims 1 and 33, as amended. Phillippe et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Chen or Matsunaga et al. Thus, the combination of Chen or Matsunaga et al., and Phillippe et al. do not teach or suggest Applicants' independent claims 1 and 33, as amended, or claims dependent thereupon.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been overcome.

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CONCLUSION

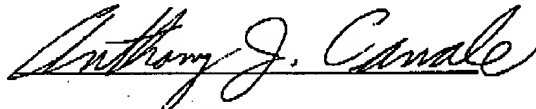
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fees are due by virtue of this response however if the PTO determines that a fee is due, please charge Applicants' deposit account, 09-0456.

Respectfully Submitted,

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